

Trends In LTC Spending

Spending for VA long-term care programs is very uneven. In 1997, VA spent \$2 billion on long-term care services for veterans. Of this, \$1.7 billion — or 82.5 percent — was spent on nursing home care. VA spent \$213 million, or 10.6 percent, on enriched housing, and just \$140 million, or 6.9 percent, on home- and community-based care.

Of total VA healthcare funds, 11.4 percent was spent on nursing home care. Enriched housing programs accounted for 1.5 percent of VA spending. Home- and community-based long-term care accounted for 1 percent of total expenditures.

See Appendix D, Table 2, for network-level information.

The Committee reviewed national and regional trends in long-term care spending to gauge the distribution of long-term care services in non-VA programs. In 1995, state programs spent \$30.4 billion in long-term care programs for the elderly. Of that total, nursing home care accounted for 84.1 percent of spending; home- and community-based care accounted for 10.3 percent. However, several states spend more than 20 percent of funding for home- and community-based care. This is the direction the Committee recommends for VA.

Report Definitions

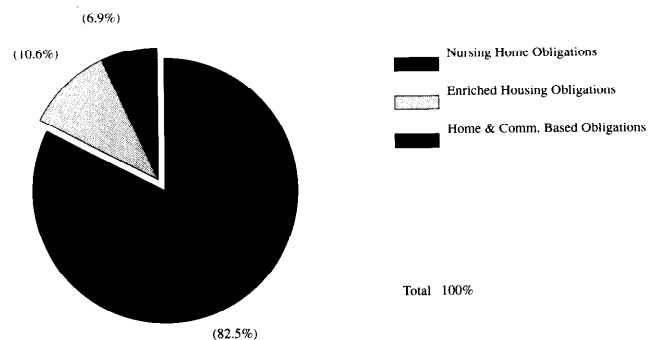
For the purposes of this report, relevant long-term care terminology is defined below.

Nursing home care refers to VA Nursing Homes, Community Nursing Homes, and State Veterans Nursing Homes.

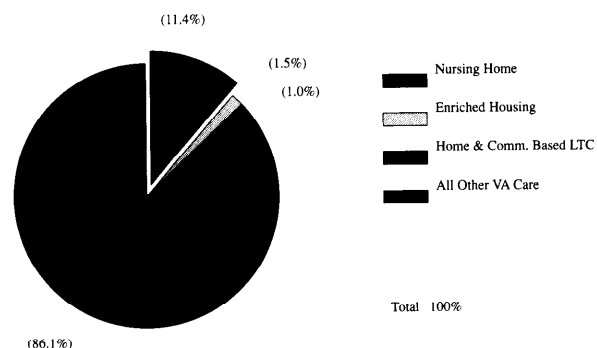
Enriched housing refers to VA and State Domiciliary Programs and Community Residential Care.

Home- and community-based care refers to Home Based Primary Care, Contract Home Health Care, Homemaker/Home Health Aide services, and VA-operated and contract Adult Day Health Care programs.

VA LTC Spending, FY 1997



VA Spending in FY 1997



State LTC Spending 1995

